



November 16, 2011  
 SUPERIOR COURT OF  
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 CRIMINAL DIVISION

Judge Richter,

2011 DEC -1 A 11: 04

An ~~event~~ <sup>event</sup> happened that has

shaken my mind, heart, and soul as a man. On Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> my wife, step-son, step-daughter and nephew were robbed by three men (cowards) at gun point. I found out Monday morning when I called my wife. My heart was torn, I broke down and cried, tears of fear, anger, sorrow and helplessness. Later that evening I saw the robbery on channel 7 news.

I was sick to my stomach, "that's my wife!" and I am helpless I can't protect my family against this attack. I was ashamed and only now imagined how she must of felt,

how she feels mentally. Praise God she was not injured, most important she is alive.

Your honor I am sorrow for anything I have done to the community. I just want to take care of my family. I can imagine how my wife feels. I was robbed at gun point twice in my store once by seven masked individuals who came in, two men held guns on me, one gun at my head, the other gun at my chest, as the rest carried out some of my merchandise and all of my cash that Saturday night. So when my wife told me about how someone stood over her with a gun to her head. I knew that experience

all to well, but not as a woman who God has given me to protect and provide for in life. He stood over her with the gun pointed at her head, asking for more money, "Where is the rest of the money!" After she had already given him over \$2,000 dollars on a Sunday night! I recall the second time I was rolled at gun point was on a Thursday afternoon around 3:00pm. When a man came in rushed toward me gun in hand what seemed to be a 9mm and put the gun to my stomach. Asked me for the money in my cash register and pockets. After I gave it to him he continued to ask for more money. He told me to walk

to the back of the store, so I pleaded to him not to kill me. In all three robberies there has been no sentence, no trial, no prosecution and no arrest, where is the justice. These criminals are still at large destroying people lives, livelihood and the community is suffering with strings of robberies on Martin Luther King Jr Avenue. My store also has been burglarized several times only on one of those occasions was there an arrest and a conviction. Mostly do to some good Congress Heights citizens. Your Honor my name is Malcolm Shabazz. Times I have felony convictions something I am unable to change. I can only ask God

to forgive me and ask the community to forgive me. God was the easy part. The community was more difficult I had to change me. So when I was released in 2007 I had only my religious items and business plan in hand as I got off the bus in D.C.

I remember like it was yesterday. I annoyed this lady for sure who was sitting beside me on the bus ride home. I just kept talking about my business plan "constantly". All praise to God I worked hard, stuck to both my religion and business plan. Working as a bouncer at a club called Choe's in Adams Morgan, 10pm until 3am in the morning, barely making it struggling with

my store. I stayed out of the streets. Things were going to be different, my heart was different. God made my life change now that I was living right. My store became profitable, I got married, bought a house, took care of my family, provided jobs for the community. Also I opened a second store, gave to my community in various ways, paid my DC sales taxes monthly, state and federal taxes yearly. Took opportunities to counsel some of my peers and some of the youth. I told them "You can make it look at me if I can do it anyone can, work hard." I wanted to be the story that there is hope regardless of a persons circumstances. I still want to do more. Your Honor my part is not something I am proud

of in life. I had a heavy price to pay almost 11 years of combined confinement. I have put my heart and soul into becoming a better person and into helping others in my community.

I have made a difference I believe in many lives for the good. I want to do more I have to do more my debt to society I have not fully repaid. Your Honor I apologize to all I have hurt. I understand your job and how important it is in making critical decisions for the well being of the community and the punishment of a crime is a very difficult one. Please look at me now. The day I was arrested in March of this year. Three men came into my store threaten me and upon leaving said they would be back.

Two of those three men returned, along with Mr. Jackson. His son Demetri had returned holding his hand in his right pocket of his jacket as if he had a small handgun shouting threats and making demands.

Five days earlier I was robbed at gun point feeling victimized. I felt violated as a human being, scared at a state of confusion. I have seen too much on N. L. K. Jr Avenue from purses being snatched, car jacking, to an armor car shooting and robbery at the Popeys just a couple of stores down. Who sometimes have an off duty uniform officer working. I just want to make a honest living, make it home to my wife and family each night safely. Please forgive me of my shortcomings and



have mercy on me when I am sentenced December  
the 9<sup>th</sup>. Could you sentence me to a halfway house  
or any combination of conditions that would allow  
me to take care of my family, provide jobs for  
the community, continue my charity and work.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely  
Harold Shalaby Ames